(e) if so, by when a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and what aid World Bank has agreed to give?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir. Based on recommendation of the National Technical Advisory Group on immunization (NTAGI), a decision has been to introduce Pentavalent combination vaccine of DPT-HepatitisB - Hib (Haemophilus influenzae b) in 5 states, namely, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu during 2009-10 to 2011-12.

(b) Expenditure Finance Committee in its meeting on 9th June, 2009, has recommended the proposal with few observations; reply to these will be incorporated in the final 'Note for Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs'.

(c) The domestic vaccine industry has assured adequate availability of Pentavalent vaccine.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. A letter seeking funds from the World Bank was sent to the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, in June, 2008.

Decline in Steel Export

*207. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether steel exporters, who have largely withstood steep decline in US steel imports from a peak level of 41 mt. in 2006 to 31 mt. in 2007 and further to 30 mt. in 2008, have finally lost steam with the advent of slow down;

(b) whether India was the second major gainer with unit price earned on steel exports going up by 79.9 per cent from $816 per tonne in 2004 to $ 1468 per tonne in 2008; and

(c) if so, what are main reasons for showing decline in steel export and what are the steps being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH): (a) Total finished steel exports from India and also to the United States of America (USA) for the period 2005-06 to 2009-10 (April-June) is given in the table below:

(in million tonnes)

Year	Total Finished* Steel Export from India	Export to USA	% Share
2005-06	4.801	0.66	13.75%
2006-07	5.242	0.74	14.12%
2007-08	5.077	0.41	8.08%
2008-09	3.658	0.44	12.02%
2009-10 (Apr-Jun)	0.426	0.05	11.74%

(*finished carbon and alloy steel)

As may be seen from above, steel export from India to USA is between 8-14%. However with the advent of global economic slowdown in post October 2008, total steel exports from India has declined by (-) 19.6% between September 2008 and March 2009 and by (-) 37.8% between April-June 2009 on year-on-year basis. Decline in steel exports from India has not affected the domestic steel industry as the Indian steel consumption has shown a rising trend. During January to June 2009, steel consumption in the country has grown by 4.4% on year-on-year basis.

(b) International steel prices were in the range of US$ 410-570 in 2004 which rose to US$ 1000-1260 during April-September 2008. During this period price of input materials like coking coal and iron ore also increased substantially leading to rise in cost of production of steel. However there is no authentic information that India was the second major gainer in terms of unit price of export as placed in the question.

(c) As stated earlier Indian exports started to decline as domestic demand grew at a faster pace compared to domestic production. However, the sharp decline after October 2008 can be attributed to the global financial meltdown. The widespread recession in the global economy and the subsequent crisis in the automobile, consumer durable and capital goods industries all over the world and especially in the destination markets for Indian exports of steel resulted in decline in steel exports. The following policy initiatives have been taken by the Government to boost the export of steel:

(i) Export Duty on all steel items (except melting scrap) withdrawn w.e.f. 31.10.2008.

(ii) Duty Entitlement Pass Book (DEPB) rates on steel items restored w.e.f. 14.11.2008.

Electrification of rail sections

†*208. SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the policy of her Ministry for electrification of rail sections;

(b) whether it is not appropriate that maximum rail sections be electrified; and

(c) the total number of proposals received from the State of Rajasthan for electrification of rail sections along with the present status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Electrification of railway routes is decided based on the operational requirements and financial viability.

(b) Yes, Sir. It is desirable to electrify rail sections which satisfy the criteria of operational requirements and financial viability. In the state of Rajasthan, 600 out of 5683 Route Kilometres (RKMs) are electrified and in the country as a whole 18942 out of 63273 RKMs are electrified.

(c) The following proposals for electrification of rail sections have been received in about last three years pertaining to the routes passing from the State of Rajasthan and their present status is as under:-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi